TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MAY, 1997

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bud Hughes K4CWG 269-0779 SECRETARY: Marty Coin WD4JNM 264-9447
V. PRESIDENT: Pike Abell W4EPU 269-4208 TREASURER: Clyde Lee K4EOS 267-9375

CLUB INFORMATION

TARC MEETINGS :	**Monthly on 4th Tuesday at 1900 hrs at Jaycee Building.**
TARC NETS:	**VIP - Thursdays at 1000 hrs on 146.910**
	FRIENDSHIP - Thursdays at 1830 hrs. ao146.910
	MOSQUITO - Wednesdays at 1900 hrs on 28.333
TARC REPEATERS:	**VHF - 146.910 and146.970. UHF 444.150**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Bud Hughes K4CWG

One of the nice things about this hobby of Amateur Radio is that we are able to keep in touch with our fellow operators. There are many situations where to be able to communicate with other operators is not only enjoyable, but is sometimes most helpful. For instance, one night Sherry sent me on a short errand. Guess what. On the way back home I decided to take a "short-cut" through a neighborhood that has an entrance and exit that is one and the same. Who knows, if it were not for Dave, AC4JX and 2 meter radio communication, I might still be wondering around in that neighborhood looking for my house. Thanks, Dave.

In addition to local communication by way of the repeaters, our hobby permits us to stay in touch with our club members who are either on vacation like Charlie, KR4YZ, or have returned to their summer homes in the north.

There are of course, other ways to communicate, including the telephone. Speaking of the telephone, let me share with you something that means a lot to me. One of the prospective amateur radio operators called and asked me if he could come to the Wednesday night Advanced study class and take the amateur radio exam. I told him that the normal test session was held on the 4th Monday of each month. This applicant was very eager to get into the hobby and explained that he was a pilot and Wednesday was his day off and he would like to be examined for his ham ticket. I further explained that in order to have an exam there must be a minimum of three accredited volunteer examiners and that it was inconvenient for the examiners to take away time from their home life to attend the test session. After much to-do he won and I told him that I would call around and get the required volunteers for the Wednesday night impromptu only if he would agree to call me and let me know if for some reason he could not make the test session.....(see page 2)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MAY BIRTHDAYS

MAY 2 W9LSD DICK DUELL
MAY 5 KC4HMP BARBARA GEOBEL
MAY 10 N1PAW JOE BONARDI
MAY 11 KD4LXG PAUL WYNN
MAY 13 KE4LNS DON McLEAN
MAY 16 WD4EBA PAUL BERNHARDT
MAY 17 KF4JI CARL CHRISTIAN
MAY 19 KC4WZA JANET VAN ALSTINE
MAY 20 K2TNT GEORGE FISCHER
MAY 21 KE4HOD HOWARD ENGLAND
MAY 22 KF4CDK WILLIAM BLUM
MAY 23 KE4MXJ PEDRO LORENZI
MAY 24 WA3EKM BRUCE JACOBS
MAY 24 K4JYX JOHN ADAMS
MAY 25 KE4BBJ CHARLIE PROSSER
MAY 26 KE4BBP BUBBA STITT
MAY 27 WB1DBZ MONTY MONTPLAISIR
MAY 30 KE4YQG PAUL KOLBECK
MAY 30 KE4BBM NIXHOLAR SARGENTI
MAY 31 KD4VRU DICK EDWARDS

OUR CONDOLENCES AND THOUGHTS GO OUT TO LES K4SJC AND HIS FAMILY. LES' BROTHER, HAROLD, BECAME A SILENT KEY ON APRIL 28

.....PRESIDENT from page 1

Guess what. Monday before the Wednesday test session he was called on to fly to South America...Brazil. To show you that there are still people who are as good as their word, this soon to be ham called me from Rio de Janeiro via long distance to let me know he would not be able to attend the test session. When I asked him why, his reply to me was, "Bud, do you know where South America, namely Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is located?....by the way, he has since taken the test and I do believe we have another great person joining our ranks.

73s. See you at the next club meeting.

PRIZE WINNER ANNOUNCED IN CONTEST

By W2SDB Bill Eppley

KF4QMM, Sue Mallen is the winner of our *Ham Radio vs. Cyberspace* **contest.** She intends to donate her $20.00 prize to the IRARC Scholarship Fund. The presentation will be made at the IRARC meeting on May 1. Try to be there. Below is her winning entry.

It has recently been brought to my attention that there is concern among members of the Amateur Radio Community that young people may forego the pursuit of Amateur Radio as an avocation in favor of selecting the Internet as a hobby. As an avid new Amateur Radio enthusiast, you might imagine my concern at hearing this. Upon giving this matter a great deal of thought, however, I have come to the conclusion that there really is no cause for alarm.

If we define communication as an exchange of information, we can look at Ham Radio and the Internet as two distinctly different yet equally viable media for the transfer of ideas. These two communications modes vary enough that by

utilizing them both, we can gain our best advantage. I do, however, see Ham Radio as having a distinct edge as the *most superior* avocation.

First of all, Ham Radio being wireless, we have the unique advantage of not having to rely on telephone lines, specifically during disaster situations. In addition, during these times, Hams form a very organized and cohesive network aimed at saving lives and property. They also relieve untold amounts of suffering by getting the word out to concerned families outside the disaster area. The value of this is immeasurable.

Secondly, Hams have the advantage of communicating with people all over the world, especially people in developing countries who may not have access to the Internet. Again, the value Hams contribute in terms of promoting good will and ambassadorship is without measure.

Thirdly, and perhaps more important than anything, is the camaraderie and fellowship that one finds in the amateur service. I see the amateur service as a lot more than an avocation. It's a family, face to face, sharing of our knowledge of electronics and radio operation with young people at a meeting or a field day is something the Internet can't provide. A computer screen is no substitute for a real teacher. We can be real advocates for young people by providing them with skills that will give them a real head start in their pursuit of science and engineering careers. In addition, we provide a sense of pride and belonging without which young people so often fall into the clutches of street gangs and drugs. This I see as a legacy of unparalleled importance and a sound investment in our future.

The Internet is without a doubt, a veritable guidance of information. Both the Internet and the computers that make it possible are vitally important and are here to stay. We can all maximize the benefits we derive from the advancement of technology by joining forces with our computer friends and find new ways to combine our resources for the enhancement of all our endeavors. This combination would be undoubtedly synergistic and the rewards will be great. It will be a challenge but challenges often turn into blessings.

I was discussing this issue with a computer buff friend who was insightful enough to come up with a very creative analogy. He stated that we can follow the entertainment world through its evolution from live theater to movie screen to television. The industry marched forward with technology, but a new form of entertainment did not make earlier ones obsolete. Live theater is as popular today as it has always been. For this reason, I feel we have no need to worry as technology marches on. Hams have always been the pacesetters in new developments. I am therefore optimistic about the future.

In closing, I would like to say that I am delighted to have become part of the proud tradition we call Amateur Radio. I will do my utmost to serve it well so as to be worthy of the title, "Ham".

A SUN-FILLED MORNING WITH HAM RADIO

By Arthur R. Lee, WF6P. From 4/97 QST

BEFORE YOU SIT DOWN TO BREAKFAST, TAKE SOME TIME TO REDISCOVER THE JOY OF AMATEUR RADIO.

I was thrilled when I received the telephone call from Bob Brouwer, N6HLE, an old friend who had recently moved to Oregon. Bob owned a 32-foot sailboat in our yacht harbor and often took my granddaughter, KE6BOP, and me sailing. He had ham gear aboard and we chatted on the air when he cruised to Hawaii and back. Bob now lives in a retirement community and had just set up a ham station there. "What are the frequencies for the

maritime mobile nets, and what frequencies do you regularly work?" he asked. I gave him the frequency of the Baja Maritime Mobile Net (7.238 Mhz, 1600 UTC) and the Manana Maritime Mobile Net (14.310 Mhz, 1930 UTC). I also gave him a frequency on which I have a daily CW schedule with Marsha, AB7RJ, in Washington state.

ANOTHER MORNING, ANOTHER NET: The following morning began routinely enough. I checked into the Baja Maritime Mobile Net and asked if Bob had joined the group. The net controller said, "Yes indeed! He did check in and was asking for you. Give him a call." I did and was excited when Bob came right back, loud and clear. We moved off the net frequency for a short conversation. He was looking for information on other ham sailing friends who lived aboard their boats in Puget Sound, Washington. Noting that my schedule time was fast approaching, I invited Bob to switch to CW and join us. (He is an ex-Navy radioman who loves CW. He normally bangs out code at 35 wpm - but I can get him to slow down for me.) Just before we broke off, a local boating friend, Terry, N6NUN came up on frequency, setting up a later time and frequency on which we would meet. He had followed us down the band from the Baja net.

CW WITH MARSHA: As always, Marsha was right on schedule. At a comfortable speed of about 15 to 18 wpm, we discussed sailing and whiterwater rafting, the sports she and her family enjoy most. I told her of the perils of racing in a tight pack of serious 50-foot racing boats, all with spinnakers set. She, in turn, reminded me of those "hard rocks" you can encounter in any good down-the-rapids run.

Marsha mentioned that she had put out a CQ on 40-meter CW the day before and was answered by a young man. She had only "light copy" on him, but had a chance to exchange names and call signs and a brief message. "I am working on improving my code speed so I can pass my General license exam," Chris Knight, KD6IXG, had told her. He was doing a great job, according to Marsha. When looking up his call sign in preparation for sending a QSL card, she was surprised to see that his home town was the same as mine. What a small world! Yes, I knew Chris quite well. He was a member of our ham radio club who had moved to Los Angeles, but returns to our town on annual visits. He had helped me teach a license class. In fact, he often tutored some of the new ham aspirants.

After a while, we all went back up to our previous 40-meter voice frequency, where we were soon joined by John, WA7IIC, in Tucson, Arizona. He had heard Marsha and me down in the CW portion of the band discussing boats and sailing. He too is a sailor, although landlocked for a time. He had owned a Ranger 26 sloop and raced it. "I was very interested in your sailing adventures and stories," he said.

CRISS-CROSSING BANDS AND MODES: Forty meters was fading, so Marsha and I went to 20-meter SSB, than tried 20-meter CW. John followed, but changing propagation caused us to lose Bob. In time it became difficult for any of us to hear each other. There was nothing else to do but give up.

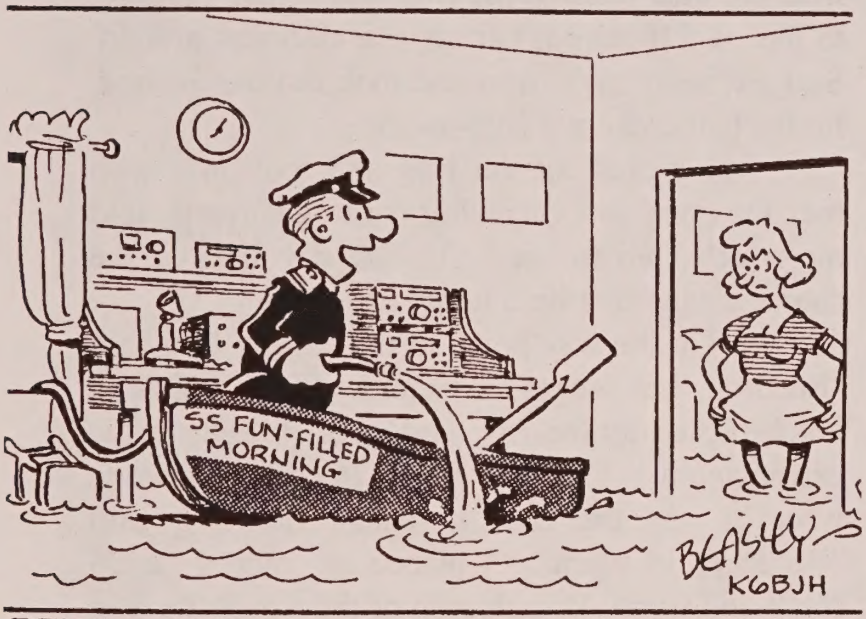
My after-sked schedule on 40 meters with Terry was nearing, but my wife wanted me to take her out to our favorite breakfast spot. I called Terry on the telephone to change our meeting time, but he was not yet home.

When we arrived at the restaurant, I tried to call Terry on our local 2-meter FM repeater. Again, he didn't answer. All was not lost, however. I brought up the repeater's autopatch and punched in his telephone number. This time I finally caught him at home. Terry was disappointed, but there would always be another day.

ALL IN A MORNING: As morning gave way to afternoon, I looked back on what had occurred. Within the space of one hour I had talked to

several people on both CW and voice on three bands (including the autopatch on 2 meters), regained contact with two out-of-state friends and acquired a new friend and fellow sailboater.

I marveled at the vitality of our hobby - which supposedly is being given such strong competition by e-mail and the Internet. Of course, ham radio has the advantage of real conversation, the *human* kind that takes place every day on the bands between friends and between total strangers. You don't need a keyboard or an e-mail address. Just turn on your radio tomorrow morning, sit back with a hot cup of coffee, and enjoy!



BEING A LAND-LOCKED SAILOR, I NEVER FELT RIGHT CHECKING INTO THE MARITIME MOBILE NET- I FEEL GOOD ABOUT THIS!

SAVE A DOLLAR, SPEND A HUNDRED?

By Steve Iezzi Kt4FY - From 4/97 FLA. SKIP

Last month, I scavenged through the piles of lost motherboards at the Orlando Hamfest only to come up with a real diamond in the rough, A PCI 486 card in pretty good shape. I brought my three dollar purchase, fixed the broken connector and fired it up. Sure enough, it worked great. Wow, a real 486 board with PCI connectors and cache that'll run the fast ones!! I was ready to make the swap (keep in mind that I was using a 386 board with an upgrade chip in it).

In true ham tradition, the goal was to spend as little money as possible. So first, I arranged a sale of my old motherboard and memory to another computer deprived ham and with the money that I received, I bought a new fast memory stick, 16 Megabytes at that. The new card only had four ISA slots and my old one had six cards. So next, I traded another card in my treasure box for a PCI video card. I packed all my cards but one in my clone case and rebooted into Windows 95. So far, so good. The operating system added some new features like the PCI BIS and Plug and Play control. The new video came up and ran like a champ. I'm almost home free but I still had one more Communications card without a home.

I had to swap one of the ISA cards for a PCI card to make room. The logical choice, of course, is the SCSI controller. My old, reliable Future Domain card had an eight bit bus and a maximum throughput of 3 megabytes per second. My fast SCSI hard disk could easily outrun the controller and PCI SCSI controllers were common and solid these days. So I dialed up the number of a mail order house and ordered an NCR SCSI controller that uses the BIOS built into the motherboard. I've done this before and they work great and luck would have it, this new card supported the NCR SCSI chip. The SCSI card cost less that thirty dollars and absolutely screams. What a deal!

The box comes, I open the case, pull out the old card and pop in the new one. This should be a no-brainer. The two cards even use the same Master Boot Record. Sure enough, Windows 95 booted on the first try, detected the new SCSI card and installed the driver. I rebooted, and after some thrashing, the system was back up and running. What!! NO CD ROM! A quick check of the Device Configuration revealed the answer. The SCSI driver was not running. Oh well, now I have to fix it. Unfortunately, Windows 95 does not levy significant built-in test requirements on the driver vendors. If the driver doesn't come up, it's virtually impossible to identify the problem so I

usually resort to the trial and error method at this point. Well, I tried everything. I swapped cables, I swapped interrupts, nothing helped. By this time I've spend a week of spare time and have only frustration to show for it. When in doubt, swap it out. So, I scrounged another motherboard from work, plugged it in and sure enough, everything started working. It's obviously the motherboard, so now, on to the repair.

The first logical step is a new BIOS. These days, with the search and download capability of the Internet, vendors are releasing cards with buggy software and posting the fixes to the web (The World Wide Web, that is) The product hits the market sooner and the customer can always snag the latest software. A little research identified the vendor and a little more identified the model number. But, no BIOS for this card. The Web Site lists the card and its features but that's about it. An e-mail to the company, in Taiwan, goes unanswered. The next place to look is the UseNet groups. I use the Dejanews Search engine (htp:www.dejanews.com) to search for postings about my card and I find several. Some of the postings complain of the very same problem that I am having. But, still no BIOS information.

I post some help requests to the active PC news groups and I get my answer pretty quickly, just not the one I wanted. The consensus was "Get a New Board - this one has problems". So much for my three dollar motherboard.

In all fairness, if I was using an EIDE hard drive, I would probably be humming along right now. But, where there's one problem, there's usually many. I just hadn't found them yet.

So now I'm in the market for a new motherboard,and while I'm at it, I may as well buy a fast Pentium, more memory....**So much for my low cost solution.**

ABELL'S ANECDOTES

By Pike W4EPU

ANOTHER ANIMAL STORY, THANKS TO MATT KE4NYM:

A fellow was on trial before a judge. He was on the witness stand testifying on his own behalf. Here is his testimony: Your honor, I was playing a round of golf. I was on the tee on a par three hole. There was a lake between the tee and green. A frog was at the edge of the water in front of the tee. I pulled the 3-iron from my bag. The frog said, "Reedeep, 3-wood." I was startled at first, but then realized the frog was actually talking to me. I felt stupid, but no one else was around. So I put away my 3-iron and took out the 3-wood, hit the ball and got a hole-in-one.

I picked up the frog and took him with me. On every shot thereafter the frog correctly told me which club to use. On that day I pared the course for the first time in my life.

On the way home in the car the frog said "Reedeep, Las Vegas". I checked into a Casino hotel, picked up the frog and went straight to the casino room. The frog said, "Reedeep, Roulette wheel". At the roulette wheel the frog said "Reedeep, 36 black". I placed my money on 36 black and won. At each spin of the wheel the frog correctly predicted the winning place. I was winning a lot of money, but was very tired. I cashed in my chips, took the frog, retired to my room to get a good nights rest and start again early the next morning.

I put the frog on my bed. The frog said, "reedeep, kiss me". I hated the thought of kissing an ugly old frog. However, after all it had done for me, I supposed I could at least make one sacrifice. I kissed it.

Now you see, your honor, that's how come the sixteen year old girl was in my room.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Clyde Lee K4EOS

Balance Forward From 1996	5703.59
Deposits Year To Date	2054.07
TOTAL INCOME	**7757.66**
Expenditures	3085.16
BALANCE AS AT 04/30/97	**4672.50**

FREE FORT McCOY TAILGATE

Ft. McCoy Amateur Radio Operators Tailgate Saturday, June 14 8:00 AM until ?. It will be held at the Ft. McCoy Community Center off State Road 316 in Ft. McCoy, east of the Ft. McCoy Cross Roads. Tailgaters are $3.00 donation to help the Community Center and the repeater repair fund. $3.00 donation is optional for those browsing, but would be appreciated. Talk in is 146.940 KS4ZI/WA4OST. We will also be monitoring the K4VDX 6 mtr. Ocala repeater 53.110. Come out and have a great time at the tailgate. Rest rooms are available.

For info call 352-546-3967 Tom or 352-546-5755 Dallas. Also Bob Dary K4VDX at 352-694-6160. Talk in persons will be monitoring 53.110 6 meter K4VDX repeater. E-mail questions to ks4zi@mercury.net

APRIL MINUTES

By Marty Coin WD4JNM

The meeting was opened by Bud K4CWG. After the Pledge, moment of silence and introduction of members and guests, Pike W4EPU introduced Mr. John Shearer, President of Sheer Power Source, Inc. who gave a demonstration of the Sheer Power machine, a battery operated power source that produces 110vac electricity.

After the social break, W2SBD, Bill Eppley played Happy Birthday on his harmonica for the April celebrants, and Red River Valley - a request from Bud K4CWG.

Bud K4CWG brought members up to date on plans for Field Day.

Steve KS4YU reported on the progress of his brother-in-laws, Wilkes,since his heart transplant. Cliff, KC4SYD told us about Mike,KE4MWZ breaking his hip and Sandy, JW4TQZ breaking her leg. Our sympathy goes out to all of them.

The next fox hunt is May 18 at the new time of 1400 hrs.

The following new members were voted into the club: Sue, KF4QMM; Tom,KF4LTW; Chris, KF4NSX,; Gregory,KF4LTZ.

Bill, W2SDB announced that Sue, KF4QMM had won the Ham Radio Vs Syberspace contest.

Bud announced that on May 3, club members will go to the school bus site to try to construct a definite plan for installing the equipment.

The meeting adjourned at 2115 hours.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WHO HELPED WITH COMMUNICATIONS AT THE RIVER RAFT RACE. TOM KF4LTW, BUD K4CWG, OZZIE N4SCY, DON WN4KYXC, MARTY WD4JNM, KEN KD4HNW, AND ANYONE NOT MENTIONED

OUR SAVIORS SCHOOL HAS JUST GOTTEN THEIR CLUB CALL SIGN WHICH IS KF4QVQ. A TITUSVILLE CLUB MEMBER - BILL EPPLEY, W2SBD IS THE TRUSTEE OF THE STATION CALL SIGN.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Total membership: 281 (204 regular, 71 family, 6 honorary)

NEW MEMBERS: KF4LTW TOM VICK
KF4NSX CHRIS MARSDEN
WA1NXI MICHEAL WHELPLEY
KF4QML KEVIN ZIMMERMAN
KF4QMM SUE MALLEN

RENEWALS: KE4BBH JIM PREVATT
KD4JBE HOOT GIBSON
KE4KCT CHARLES FROST
KE4MXB BONNIE FROST
N4MCZ ROD IWAN
KE4NYM MATT KELLER
KD4RLT WILLIAM MERRILL
KB4WLT KEN WATSON
KB4VFQ KAY WATSON
KF4AZN KEN WATSON, JR.
KE4HOG NANCIE PREVATT
KS4FB TED LARRABEE
KS4DW CLARA LARRABEE

HAMFESTS:

06/14	Ft. McCoy
09/21	New Port Richey
10/11	Tampa
11/01	Sorrento
11/08	Titusville

BELL SOUTH HAS PUBLISHED THE BREVARD COUNTY EVACUATION/SHELTER MAP, HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENT INFORMATION IN THEIR NEW 1997-98 TELEPHONE DIRECTORY. THIS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON CUSTOMER GUIDE PAGES 24, 25 & 26

TITUSVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P. O. BOX 73
TITUSVILLE FL 32781-0073

CATER TO MOM ON HER SPECIAL DAY